(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. have released a comprehensive report to redress this issue; and

(c) if so, the details thereof especially those relating to short-term and viable long-term solution for waste storage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The management and disposal of long life radioactive wastes have been an important issue this world over. Technological solutions do exist and several countries have taken steps in the direction.

(b) This Department is not aware of any such reports by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

Private participation in Atomic Energy Production

1440. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amended Atomic Energy Act waiting for the approval of the Parliament provides for private participation in nuclear energy production in the country;

(b) whether according to the amended provision, the Department of Atomic Energy and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited will be bound to provide technical support to the private power producer; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Atomic Energy Act , 1962, as amended in 1987, allows setting up of Nuclear Power Plants only by Government or Government companies in which not less than 51% equity is held by the Central Government. At present, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhakiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI) are the two Public Sector Companies in the field of Nuclear Power. Both these companies are owned 100% by Government of India.

NPCIL as part of their capacity expansion programme had explored the possibility of setting up separate joint venture companies with the participation of Private Sector entities, State Electricity Boards (SEBs) or Public Sector Units (PSUs). These efforts have not let to any concrete proposal; no porposal is currently under the consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Appointment of UDC's

1441. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that examination for the post of UDC were held in the month of June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that even after elapse of about three years of examination, selected candidates have not been called to join;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the selected candidates would be called to join?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A written examination for the post of Upper Division Clerk (UDC) was conducted by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on 2.6.2002 for filling up of 17 vacancies in the reserved categories *viz.* SC/ST/OBC as well as vacancies likely to arise in the near future under direct recruitment quota. Candidated qualified in the written examination were called for personal interview, based on which a select list was prepared.

(c) No, Sir. So far eighteen candidates, in the order of merit subject to reservation orders, have been appointed. Character and Antecedents (C&A) verification in respect of one candidate is in progress. Five candidates did not respond to the offer of appointment issued by BARC.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) This will depend on the availability of vacancies.